

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A device Device for protection against voltage surges in an electric power supply line, ~~characterized in that it comprises at least two elements (1, 1', 3), namely at least comprising:~~

~~a fast-blow in short circuit~~ Zener diode lightning arrestor (1, 1') ~~of the fast-blow in short circuit type,~~ and a varistor (3), whose respective connection terminals are common and which are arranged in parallel, one of the connection terminals (c, c') common to the arrestor and the varistor ~~these two elements~~ (1, 1', 3) being connected to the line (5, 7) to be protected, and the other ~~common~~ connection terminal (d, d') being connected to earth or to a common conductor element.

2. (currently amended) The device Device according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that the varistor (3) is associated with further comprising~~ a disconnector (6, 6') ~~which is disposed between [it] the varistor (3) and the line (5, 7) to be protected.~~

3. (currently amended) The device Device according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that further comprising~~ a disconnector (4) ~~is disposed upstream of the common connection terminal of the~~

~~two elements (1, 3) which is connected to the line (5, 7) to be protected.~~

4. (currently amended) A device for protection against voltage surges in an electric power supply line, comprising:

a Zener diode lightning arrestor and a varistor, the arrestor and varistor having respective connection terminals that are common and arranged in parallel, one of the connection terminals being connected to a line to be protected and the other connection terminal being connected to one of earth and a common conductor element; and

~~Device according to Claim 1, characterized in that it is formed by an envelope of substantially cylindrical shape of which the having two ends that are formed by two metal rings (10, 12) insulated from one another constituting its two said connection terminals, each of them being respectively connected to said common terminals of the two elements (1, 3).~~

5. (currently amended) The device Device according to Claim 4, characterized in that wherein the Zener diode lightning arrester element (1, 1') is arranged along [the] a longitudinal axis [(yy')] of the cylindrical envelope.

6. (currently amended) The device Device according to Claim 4, characterized in that wherein the varistor [(3)] has the shape of a tube which is disposed around the Zener diode lightning arrester element (1') so that [its] a longitudinal axis

of the tube merges with the longitudinal axis [(yy')] of the cylindrical envelope.

7. (currently amended) The device Device according to Claim 6, ~~characterized in that the wherein~~ inner and outer surfaces of the varistor [(3)] are respectively in contact with an inner metal tube [(20)] and an outer metal tube [(14)] which form [its] electrodes of the varistor and which are respectively in contact with the metal rings ~~(10, 12)~~.

8. (currently amended) The device Device according to Claim 7, ~~characterized in that the wherein~~ a connection between one of the metal rings ring ~~(12)~~ and the outer tube [(14)] is ensured by welding spots whose volume and number are such that they are adapted to melt under the effect of a voltage surge so as to perform a function of a disconnector.

9. (currently amended) The device Device according to Claim 7, ~~characterized in that the wherein~~ a space inside said inner tube [(20)] is filled with an insulating and resistant product ~~such as in particular an epoxy resin~~.

10. (currently amended) A device for protection against voltage surges in an electric power supply line, comprising:

a Zener diode lightning arrestor and a varistor whose respective connection terminals are common and that are arranged in parallel, one of the connection terminals being connected to a line to be protected and the other of the connection terminals

being connected to one of earth and a common conductor element;
and

~~Device according to one of Claim 1, characterized in that it is constituted by~~ a connector support [(23)] which comprises means for respectively receiving the arrestor and the varistor elements (1, 3) and which ensures their connection in parallel as well as the connection of their respective common connection terminals with [the] terminals of the device.

11. (new) A device for protection against voltage surges in an electric power supply line, comprising:

a Zener diode and a varistor having respective connection terminals that are common and that are arranged in parallel, first ones of the connection terminals being connected to a line to be protected and second ones of the connection terminals being connected to one of earth and a common conductor element,

said Zener diode and said varistor having characteristics so that when a voltage at the first connection terminal of the varistor reaches an avalanche value of the Zener diode, the device continues to conduct current until a blow-out power of the Zener diode is reached.

12. (new) The device of claim 11, wherein said Zener diode and said varistor are in a generally cylindrical envelope, and wherein said connection terminals are metal rings at ends of said cylindrical envelope.

13. (new) The device of claim 11, wherein said Zener diode and said varistor are in a generally rectangular envelope.